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1961/05/14

INCOMING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

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FROM: GENEVA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: SECTO 111, MAY 14, 2 PM

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT SECTO 111, SAIGON 10, CINCPAC FOR POLAD UNNUMBERED.

HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL THOUGHT TO PROBLEM RAISED TOSEC 83. MY RECOMMENDATION IS TO PROCEED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL PURSUANT TO OUR VIETNAM AUGMENTATION PLAN. UNITS DESCRIBED EN ROUTE NOW AT CLARK BASE SHOULD THEREFORE NOT BE DELAYED BUT PROCEED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. WOULD BELIEVE IT EXPEDIENT TO AVOID ARRIVAL SEVERAL AIRCRAFT OR LARGE CONTINGENCIES OF MEN AT ONCE IN ORDER MOVEMENT NOT APPEAR FLAGRANT OR OSTENTATIOUS.

MY RECOMMENDATION BASED ON OPINION THAT WE CANNOT NOW CARRY OUT EXPANDED VIETNAM PROGRAM WITH ANY HOPE OF RECONCILING IT WITH RESTRICTIONS OF GENEVA ACCORDS AS INTERPRETED BY ICC. AS I RECALL OUR DECISION BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON WAS THAT WE WOULD NOT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OR REVOCATION OF THE SMITH STATEMENT BEARING ON OUR VOLUNTARY ADHERENCE TO THE GENEVA ACCORDS. RATHER WE PROCEED WITH INTRODUCTION OF WHATEVER EQUIPMENT AND MEN AS THE PROGRAM DEVELOPS; AND IF CHALLENGED BY THE ICC MERELY RESPOND OURSELVES AND SUGGEST GVN ALSO TAKE THE ATTITUDE THAT WE CANNOT BE BOUND BY RESTRICTIONS WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAVE HAD ONE ONE-SIDED COMPLIANCE. IF IT COULD BE MADE TWO-SIDED MY ATTITUDE WOULD BE DIFFERENT.

SO FAR AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS CONCERNED, I AM OF OPINION THAT INSOFAR AS SUCH ACTION WILL BE INTERPRETED AS US DETERMINATIO

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E. O. 11652, SEC. 3(E), EXEC. ORD. 12958 AND 11

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State NLK-74-3
BY SMF DATE 12/6/78

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-2- SECTO 111, MAY 14, 2 PM FROM GENEVA

TO MAKE STRONG STAND IN VIETNAM AND THAILAND TO REINFORCE FREE WORLD POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT THE EFFECT WILL BE GOOD. FURTHER THERE MAY WELL BE SOME ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE DISCOURAGING TO OUR VIETNAMESE AND THAI FRIENDS. IT IS THEREFORE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT WE GET ON WITH PROGRAMS WHICH WILL BRING THE MAXIMUM ASSURANCE TO THEM DURING THIS PERIOD.

I ALSO HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY GIVEN CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE TO VIETNAM GROWING OUT OF THIS PLAN. ANY HESITATION OR DELAY WOULD SEEM INCONSISTENT WITH THE COMMITMENTS HE HAS MADE TO DIEM. DEPT SHOULD ARRANGE APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION ESPECIALLY WITH BRITISH, FRENCH, CANADIANS AND OTHERS AS DEEMED ADVISABLE.

RUSK

SGC

Note: Advance copy Mr. Davies (SO) Mr. Moser (INR) 12:30pm 5/14/
CWO-JSW

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